

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – January 22, 2019 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Danley, Hilarie Engle, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees, Kari Kostka, Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Scott Koberg

**OTHER:** Brent Moore; Development Services, Judy Peavey-Derr; citizen, Brenda Mittleider; equestrian, Susan Osterburg; equestrian, Janet Meeker; equestrian, Jill Mohn; equestrian.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

E. Reaves moved to adjust the agenda to move the equestrian presentation to the end of the agenda.

C. Vertrees seconded. Motion passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

C. Miller supplied an update on the Bike Park. C. Miller and C. Vertrees met with Kim Lyons and Chris Bondurant who are members of the downhill riding community, on January 17, 2020. One thing that struck C. Miller was the way they felt about the Bike Park and its uniqueness. It is the only place in the Treasure Valley where there are downhill directional trails. It's the only place locally where they have the right-of-way. This makes it a unique selling point and one of the reasons Kim and Chris go there to ride. They would like to see the Bike Park promoted more. They specifically mentioned promoting it through Ridge to Rivers Facebook page during non-peak trail building times of the year. C. Vertrees added that Kim and Chris have ridden in and around Boise for 30 years and are familiar with the way things have evolved. What makes them unique is that they travel around to different locations and ride mountain bikes. B. Moore inquired if there is a problem with overcrowding at the Bike Park right now? M. Edwards responded that we are getting close to carrying capacity during certain times of the day. He also added that the overview from Kim and Chris was excellent. There were a lot of reoccurring themes. The downhill oriented community seems to really like the E-Bikes. With an increase in E-Bikes at the Bike Park, he has noticed E-Bike users doing more laps than a non E-Bike user would typically do. This will add a little more pressure than normal. The theme of intermediate to entry level features was another topic that was brought up by Kim and Chris. Along with the dog on/off leash. M. Edwards mentioned the need for a sounding board. A group of people he could meet with quarterly to discuss upcoming changes and to get their input. An example he gave was the feature on Shaken' Bake that used to be a double and was changed to a step down. This is now an intermediate feature. S. Frey inquired where are we taking this? Are we going to generate a management plan for the park which would be something other than business as usual. Are we going to start changing how the park is used? C. Miller alluded to putting together a set of recommendations. When the Bike Park subcommittee sat down initially to talk about how to move forward, the idea was to speak with people who represent different types of users at the Bike Park and get some in-depth information. This includes downhill mountain bikers, women users, youth users, beginner users and trail runners. Ultimately, the subcommittee will work to fold in information from the users but also information from the previous survey to have a comprehensive look at what they are hearing from the community and ideas that could be incorporated. S. Koberg added that this was his vision as well. Ultimately the input received will be consolidated through this Board to provide non-binding advice and recommendations that will then be considered for the development of our plan and bring it back to

the Board of County Commissioners for adoption. S. Frey went on to ask if the outcome would be a formal official binding plan or just guidance. S. Koberg responded that we are looking for O&M plus enhancement plan that would tell us what we have and where we are going with properties we manage. For us, it's binding in that it will be our official plan for the Bike Park. S. Frey went on to say that ultimately as a Board, we should be trying to be objective and fair and broader than our own interests and think in terms of proportional use. K. Kostka added that we are systematically working on meeting with several use groups.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

K. Danley requested to add "pedestrian" to the 3rd paragraph from the end of page 1 December minutes

E. Reaves moved to approve the December minutes with K. Danley's small change.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

S. Koberg supplied an update Red Hawk. Fatal flaws were identified in the field during the design of the connecting piece between Landslide Loop and the Avimor trails. The original plan was to do spring construction and have the trail open by May. The bottom line is that there are issues with the soils, the slope, scarring potential, the associated cost of the build and wildlife concerns. There has been guidance from the Board of Commissioners to look in other areas for a connection. Landslide Loop will probably remain a wide open loop for wildlife considerations. The Dry Creek Ranch property is probably the missing piece and we will need to continue to make sure that's an appropriate trail connection through there. Avimor is on board with this. The Avimor property does abut the Dry Creek Ranch property. C. Vertrees commented that this is a justifiable decision with a lot of work that was put in.

#### **OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:**

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities. At the last meeting there was discussion regarding the concerns some Echanove Ranch homeowners were having about the proposed trail. . Mike has since been working with HOA President Julia Whitting and the biggest issue seems to be concerns regarding the proposed width of the trail.

M. Edwards has had additional discussions with the Dry Creek Ranch developers regarding the trail alignment and draft easement. He is hoping final discussions with Dry Creek Ranch will happen in the next month or so.

M. Edwards has been working on the Oregon Trail master plan. Before moving forward with a pit toilet, it was recommended by Development Services that Parks & Waterways complete a master plan. Mike has been going through documents from the last 15-20 years and placing them into a binder for submittal. Before the Master Plan can be finalized and submitted, he needs to get approval for a revised licensing agreement with Simplot.

M. Edwards has moved forward with drafting some new information and collecting photos for some of the kiosks.

He has also been researching the Kelton Trail and the Oregon Trail following the Golden Spike connection in Utah. There has been a lot of confusion in the past as to what is the Kelton Trail and Oregon Trail that he would like to clear this up with new signage.

M. Edwards will be meeting with the National Park Service sometime next month to take a look at an area close to the trail head as it comes out on Columbia Road. There was some new Oregon Trail that was found out there. A north and south route of the Kelton trail was also found at this location. He wants to discuss placing markers and a system for keeping the markers consistent.

Last week S. Koberg and M. Edwards met with a company to discuss placing columnar basalt at the entrance of Oregon Trail. This is schedule for implementation late winter or early spring. The wagon wheels from the hay wagon will also be placed at the entrance.

M. Edwards met with SWIMBA at Hubbard Reservoir. They are interested in helping build trail there.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

S. Koberg added that the Ada County Commissioners are holding a series of Neighborhood Growth meetings. The first one for southeast Boise was held at the Barber Park Education & Event Center on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The next one is the northwest meeting being held January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Church of the Nazarene.

K. Kostka added that Eric Grace from the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley will present in March. She welcomed other presenters.

### **EQUESTRIAN PRESENTATION:**

K. Danley handed out a pamphlet on equine in Idaho. She added that Idaho has the largest equine population per capita. B. Mittleider showed a PowerPoint as she talked.

J. Peavey-Derr shared that she moved back to Boise in 1976 when the Greenbelt was being built and became actively involved. When she was elected County Commissioner, the Greenbelt was her emphasis. In 1988 a group called Boise River Trail Foundation was started. From there it morphed to Foundation for Ada Canyon Trails System. J. Peavey-Dewas the president of this organization for 15-20 years. In this group there is really a need for a discussion about horses. She went on to say that now is a prime time for citizens to speak with the Commissioners regarding the horse track and how there is still a function for it. She went on to say that the loss of this open space would be gone forever. She is an advocate of equestrians having their own place to ride.

B. Mittleider went on to share examples of local equestrian history including Greenbelt access near Garden City and large, publicly accessible arenas where Hawks Stadium is now located. She shared that Idaho is the only state that doesn't have a public horse park and cited examples from other states including one in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

In her opinion, trails heads, parking lot size and design are important factors to consider for equestrians. She feels the best local parking for equestrians is the Oregon Trail trailhead. Eagle Island also has good parking for smaller trucks and trailers. Designated horse trailer parking signage was discussed by the parties. These signs are currently on Cartwright Road and were put in by Ada County Highway District.

B. Mittleider shared that the Idaho Horse Council had a survey done in 2015 to get a population count of equine in the state. At the time 221,000 were in the state of which 84% are used for recreation. A new state wide census will be done this year. \$43 million is spent on hay, \$15 million is spent on farriers, \$12 million to training fees, \$7 million for veterinarian fees, \$3 million for clothing. The total economic impact is \$122 million annually.

Her vision would be to have a horse park similar to Bucks County. C. Miller inquired what the size of the Bike Park, Oregon Trail and Hubbard is. S. Koberg responded 350 acres between Eagle and Ada County. Ada County owns 310 of those acres. Oregon Trail is 21 acres owned by Ada County and Hubbard is 377 acres. S. Koberg went on to say that Ada County Parks and Waterways has the most diverse property portfolio for multi-use non-motorized trails. Being a partner with Ridge to Rivers offers 200 miles of trail that is open to equestrians. Hubbard Reservoir was developed with immense input from equestrians who are currently the primary user group. Seaman's Gulch is another example.

K. Danley responded that the point is if they can't park a trailer, access the trail, or if the trail is dangerous, equestrians won't use the trail.

K. Danley went on to show the Portland Trail Guide. She has been asked by Avimor to organize their trails.

B. Mittleider went on to talk about the Oregon Trail and how it would be a good place for an obstacle course for horses.

K. Danley shared a statement from Kim Lyons regarding the need for equestrians to have a way to safely access and travel around the Bike Park Corridor.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**K. Danley adjourned the meeting at 1:21p.m.**